3. (Twice Amended) An optical moisture detector for measuring ambient light conditions comprising:

an optical moisture sensor for sensing the presence of moisture on a moisture collecting surface, the sensor operable to emit a signal corresponding to sensed conditions;

processor means for receiving the signal, for determining an absolute ambient light value corresponding to existing ambient light conditions, for comparing the value to a predetermined value, and for emitting a control signal if the value is less than the predetermined value as a result of the comparison; and

timer means for selectively disabling the processor means from comparing the value to the predetermined value for a predetermined period of time.

Cancel claim 8.

10. (Twice Amended) An optical moisture detector for measuring ambient light conditions comprising:

an optical moisture sensor for sensing the presence of moisture on a moisture collecting surface, the sensor operable to emit a signal corresponding to sensed conditions;

processor means for receiving the signal, for determining an absolute ambient light value corresponding to existing ambient light conditions, for comparing the value to a predetermined value, and for emitting a control signal if the value is less than the predetermined value as a result of the comparison wherein the processing means compares the absolute ambient light value to a plurality of predetermined values such that the processing means compares the absolute ambient light value to a first predetermined value to determine if a signal to turn on a light generating device is to be sent, and compares the absolute ambient light value to a second predetermined value to determine if a signal to turn off the light generating device is to be sent.

11. (Amended) An optical moisture detector for measuring ambient light conditions comprising:

an optical moisture sensor having a plurality of dark pixels and a plurality of standard pixels for sensing the presence of moisture on a windshield of a vehicle, the sensor operable to emit a signal corresponding to sensed conditions; and

processor means for receiving the signal, for determining an absolute ambient light value corresponding to existing ambient light conditions, for comparing the value to a predetermined value, and for emitting a control signal if the value is less than the predetermined value as a result of the comparison.

13. (Twice Amended) An optical moisture detector for measuring ambient light conditions comprising:

an optical moisture sensor for sensing the presence of moisture on a windshield of a vehicle, the sensor operable to emit a signal corresponding to sensed conditions;

processor means for receiving the signal, for determining an absolute ambient light value corresponding to existing ambient light conditions, for comparing the value to a predetermined value, and for emitting a control signal if the value is less than the predetermined value as a result of the comparison; and

timer means for selectively disabling the processor means from comparing the value to the predetermined value for a predetermined period of time.

14. (Amended) An optical moisture detector for measuring ambient light conditions comprising:

an optical moisture sensor for sensing the presence of moisture on a windshield of a vehicle, the sensor operable to emit a signal corresponding to sensed conditions; and

processor means for receiving the signal, for determining an absolute ambient light value corresponding to existing ambient light conditions, for comparing the value to a predetermined value, and for emitting a control signal if the

value is less than the predetermined value as a result of the comparison wherein the processor means emits the control signal only if at least two successive comparisons indicate the value is less than the predetermined value.

17. (Amended) A method of measuring ambient light conditions comprising:

sensing the presence of moisture on a moisture collecting surface with an optical moisture sensor having a plurality of dark pixels and a plurality of standard pixels, the sensor operable to emit a signal corresponding to sensed conditions;

receiving the signal and determining an absolute ambient light value corresponding to the existing ambient light conditions with processor means;

comparing the value to a predetermined value with the processor means; and

emitting a control signal with the processor means if the value is less than the predetermined value as a result of the comparing step.